

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Kiyoharu HIRAO et al.  
Serial No : Not Yet Assigned (National Phase of PCT/JP00/04003)  
Filed : Concurrently Herewith (International Filing Date June 19, 2000)  
For : METHOD OF PURIFYING ORGANIC PHOSPHORIC ESTER

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application on the merits, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows (a marked-up copy of the claim amendments is provided as an attachment to this Amendment):

3. (Amended-Clean Text) A method according to claim 1, wherein the ratio between the crude organic phosphoric ester and the epoxy compound is 1:1 to 1:20 (molar ratio) based on an acid value of the crude organic phosphoric ester.

4. (Amended-Clean Text) A method according to claim 1, wherein the treatment with the epoxy compound is carried out at 40 to 160°C.